



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,446	03/29/2004	Bob McGuire		3361

27530 7590 11/28/2005

NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH, LLP  
1320 MAIN STREET, 17TH FLOOR  
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

EXAMINER
----------

SMITH, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3672

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/812,446	Applicant(s) MCGUIRE ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew J. Smith	Art Unit 3672	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>29Mar04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                                                |

✓

***Claim Objections***

Claims 4 and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities: "wring" is not disclosed, should be --wing--. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Begg (1988442).

Begg discloses a wellhead system comprising: tubular heads 13, 14 independently secured by threaded-union nuts 35, 54; each tubular head supporting a mandrel 13, 14 for suspending a tubular string 19, 40 in the well; each mandrel being secured to the tubular head by a threaded union; the tubular strings suspended by the mandrels are concentrically disposed within a surface casing suspended by the wellhead (Fig. 2); the wellhead being supported by a conductor assembly 10 dug into the earth; the casing mandrel 13 threadedly secured to a wellhead with the wellhead both securing and suspending a surface casing 10; a tubing head spool, at openings 41, threadedly secured to the casing mandrel; the casing mandrel securing and suspending a production casing 19; the tubing hanger 38,39 threadedly secured (Fig. 2, above numeral 38) to the tubing head spool; the tubing hanger both securing and suspending a production tubing 40; and an adapter flange, at 54, threadedly secured to the tubing hanger, the adapter flange having an upper flange for connecting to a flow-control device 49.

This reference also discloses a method of completing a low-pressure well comprising: securing a first mandrel 13 to a first tubular head using a first threaded union 35, the first tubular head supporting a first tubular or conductor string 10 in the well, and the first mandrel supporting a second tubular string 19 in the well; securing a second tubular head 14 to the first mandrel using a second threaded union 54; and securing a second mandrel 14 to the second tubular head using a third threaded union 15; the second mandrel supporting a third tubular string 40 in the well; securing an adapter flange to the second mandrel 14 using a fourth threaded union 58; and landing a wellhead onto the conductor assembly with the wellhead both securing and suspending a surface casing 10 in the well.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Begg in view of Dallas (5615739).

Begg discloses landing a wellhead onto a conductor; suspending surface casing; securing a mandrel, tubing head spool, and hanger but not securing a frac stack to the casing mandrel using a fourth threaded union, the frac stack having conduits for conveying proppants and pressurized fluids into the production casing for fracturing the subterranean hydrocarbon formation, or removing the frac stack from the casing mandrel.

Dallas presents a frac stack 56 secured to well head structure 48 to carrying a fracturing operation.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach and remove a frac stack to the top of the Begg device in order to completely produce a well and service the wellhead, respectively.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 19-21 are allowed.

Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Dallas (6626245) depicts threaded adapter 94.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-7034. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F, 9-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Bagnell  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3672

MJS *MJS*  
2 November 2005